

# Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

Newsletter no.24

October 2007



## Lewa Mission Statement

*'The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy works as a catalyst for wildlife conservation. It does this through the protection and management of species and their habitat, the initiation and support of community conservation and development initiatives, and the education of neighbouring communities in the value of wildlife.'*



# Introduction

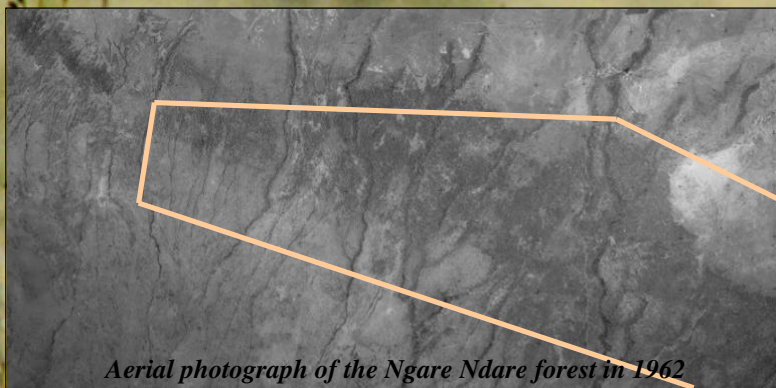
## The Ngare Ndare Forest

With the ever present reports of droughts, floods and environmental degradation into our daily lives it is rare to come across a report so close to home of forests expanding, trees being planted by the million and a water table with an increasingly protected catchment area..

In 1979-80 two young Dutch scientists Lex Linsen and Wim Giesen came to Lewa, then a cattle ranch, to undertake a vegetation survey as part of their Masters thesis. They carefully recorded the species and distribution of all the woody vegetation; 30 years later Wim returned with his sons; the original researcher now an eminent scientist in his field and his sons following fast in his footsteps.

They were able to compare data over a 40 year period, monitoring the changes in vegetation cover within the Ngare Ndare Forest. Their conclusion was astounding. An increase in woody vegetation cover in the riverine areas at Lewa from 13% to 30%, as well as a doubling of tree density in the indigenous forest within the Ngare Ndare Forest Reserve itself. What was previously an open eroded area within the Forest has now completely grown back to *Juniperus procera*-*Olea africana*-*Podocarpus spp* forest. The photos here clearly indicate this change.

In the 1960s the forest was used and abused, providing fence posts and building materials to the surrounding area. There was awareness but limited commitment to its protection. Over the past 40 years the Kenya Government has provided increased protection to the forest helping to reverse the trend.



*Aerial photograph of the Ngare Ndare forest in 1962*

In 2000 the Ngare Ndare Forest Trust was established and since its inception has planted over a million trees to help reduce the pressure for firewood from the community; illegal extraction of timber has reduced and the expectation is that in a further 30 years, the forest will further expand its cover.



*Aerial photograph of the Ngare Ndare forest in 2000*



The springs feeding the rivers flowing through Lewa have never been stronger. With the formation of Water User Associations on these rivers, water is now flowing further north more than at any time during the past 40 years. In 1960 all the Black Rhino had been exterminated from the Ngare Ndare forest, today 25 of Lewa's 55 Black Rhino population have usage of the area.

There could not be a clearer indicator of success; increased forest cover, increased water flow and increasing Black Rhino population, and all in a mere 40 years.

Your interest in helping to support and promote the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy makes us all key partners in this success. What a wonderful example of what can be achieved at a relatively humble level yet with great national benefits.

Thank You

*Ian Craig - Executive Director*

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## Overview

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The highlight of the past six months has been the 8<sup>th</sup> Safaricom Marathon which was run at the end of June, attracting the largest ever field of over 900 runners. The run has now become a major event in the Kenyan and international running calendars and for the first time we were turning away teams! In the spirit of the event we raised close to \$230,000 which will go to conservation and community development projects around Lewa and in wider Kenya.

The low point of the period was the Kenya court judgment in early June against Il Ngwesi, Lewa and Ian personally in the case brought by Wendy Martin following her injuries inflicted by an elephant during a run at Il Ngwesi in 2000. We are very disappointed with the judgement but have grounds for and have lodged an appeal.

The weather on the Conservancy has been a little unusual; we had the vast amounts of rain over New Year, then little in April and in August we have had more – including over 2 inches in one two hour period! Fortunately this has not restricted the tourism operation too much and indeed the Conservancy now looks green.

As I write this in the height of the busiest season on Lewa it is encouraging to see the number of visitors at our tourist venues. We are achieving higher occupancies than last year which increases the contribution to the core operations from our own revenue generating activities and reduces our reliance on donor funding. We believe that this trend will continue.

*David Parkinson - Deputy Director*



*Elephants meeting chuma by the Digby's Campsite*



# Wildlife and Security

Anti-poaching patrols and surveillance within Lewa and its environs are a never ceasing part of our daily routines and schedules and they form one of our core objectives. Lewa focuses a high percentage of its resources in this direction, with over 150 staff in this department alone, varying from unarmed rhino monitoring teams (56 men), a fence unit (24 men), gate men (24), armed trackers/armory guards (8), orphaned animal handlers (8), Tracker Dog team (3), capture team (2) and finally but most important of all, our “strong arm” of 19 Kenya Police Reservists (KPR) all armed with automatic rifles. The KPR men are employed by the Conservancy, but are seconded from the Kenya Police and by having KPR status, it gives the Conservancy full legality to act and make follow-ups, in a lawful manner, to any security related incidents in the District. Most of these follow-ups are joint efforts and in conjunction with other Government security personnel, such as the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).

During 2007 there has been an upsurge in the demand for rhino horn and ivory with several worrying reports coming in from our informer networks and the fact that poaching of rhino has occurred in recent months on other rhino sanctuaries within Kenya. Lewa maintains a close working relationship with KWS and other rhino sanctuaries on all aspects of rhino security, however we must not take our “eye off the ball”, the threat is real and it can happen at any time.

To summarize security and wildlife related activities covering the first 8 months of 2007, here are some interesting statistics that briefly show we have not been idle:

## Security Incidents:

- Total number of follow-ups to poaching or serious security related incidents using LWC KPR men, LWC Tracker Dog Team and/or LWC light aircraft as back up, in conjunction with the KWS, Kenya Police, Anti-Stock Theft Unit and various Community Conservancy Scouts = 52 Follow-ups
- This translates to one follow-up every 4.7 days
- Total arrests = 8 (poaching), 7 (robbery), 4 (stock theft), 3 (illegal firewood collection), 2 (trespassing), 4 (illegal grazing)
- Recoveries/Firearms = 1 M16 automatic rifle + 7 rounds, 5 spears, 27 snares
- Ivory recovered by LWC and associated Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) personnel = 14 Tusks (from 18 carcasses of which 8 were poached)
- Total number of livestock recovered = 140 shoats, 18 cows, 1 donkey

## Wildlife Incidents:

- Number of black rhino calves LWC = 3
- Number of white rhino calves LWC = 2
- LWC total rhino population = 55 black rhino and 37 white rhino (with 8 on other conservancies on a custodianship agreement)
- Number of different animals translocated = 32 black rhino, 1 white rhino, 1 buffalo
- Number of different wildlife interventions/treatment = 13 elephant (all for bullet wounds), 13 buffalo (blood samples), 6 Grevy's Zebra (all for lion attack wounds), 1 black rhino (fighting), 1 white rhino (leg injury), 1 Chimpanzee (fighting), 1 Cheetah (remove cancerous growth)
- Number of different animals collared, de-collared or ear notched, for research and identification reasons : 13 elephant, 13 Grevy's Zebra, 1 leopard, 3 lion, 3 common zebra, 3 white rhino (ear notched)
- Number of serious reports of Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) to LWC Ops room from LWC, surrounding environs and NRT areas = 52 incidents
- Number of fatalities from HWC incidents reported to LWC Ops room = 2 men (elephant)
- Number of fence posts destroyed by elephant on LWC fence line = 78 posts



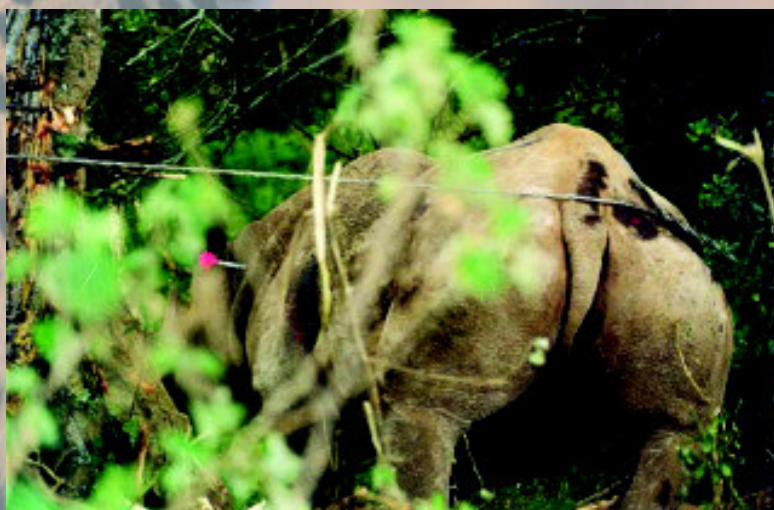
Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is in an extremely lucky situation in that it has many, many friends and supporters both locally in Kenya and overseas as well as a very dedicated staff force. Whether it is support from the Kenya Wildlife Service or financial support from overseas sponsors, none of the success's that Lewa has achieved in the conservation field and with its neighbours would have been possible.

Lewa is truly a joint success, thanks to all of you.

### **Unbelievable Black Rhino Story – It's True, Believe Me**

The extraordinary photograph below shows a sub-adult female black rhino, still alive, in a cable snare that was tightening with every struggle around the animal's hips/torso. It was taken on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2004 on a private rhino sanctuary in Laikipia District that had come under intensive poaching, specific to rhino, between 2002 and 2004. Lewa Wildlife Conservancy (LWC) became heavily involved in security from mid April 2004 until August 2006 in what was a successful bid to stamp out this poaching. This particular rhino was successfully cut free and released following joint efforts between the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Vet Unit and LWC security men.

Little did we know that nearly 3 years on we would touch this very same female black rhino again but under very different circumstances. On 17<sup>th</sup> February 2007 she was darted and translocated from Solio Game Reserve to Ol Pejeta Conservancy (OPC) in perfect health, but still bearing the very distinct scars on her hips of that near fatal cable snare. She was one of 28 black rhino that were translocated to OPC from Solio in what is East Africa's largest rhino translocation to date.



*Black rhino being released from a cable snare*

With so few wild black rhino left in this world it is not surprising that individual rhino are re caught and can be individually recognized. This lady is one lucky rhino and we are very lucky to be a part of her story.

*Richard Moller - Director of Operations*



*Same black rhino showing snare scars - three years later*



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# Lewa Research

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*A young Pride of Lewa's lions*

## A Day Out with the Lion Trackers

At daybreak, we set out to the field to undertake one of the most coveted wildlife monitoring activities in Lewa - lion tracking. For those who have undertaken this daily exercise, getting to interact with these magnificent kings of the jungle at close range, is not only awesome, but it demonstrates the serenity of the environment enjoyed by all game in the Conservancy. A number of lion are fitted with VHF radio collars to track their movements on a daily basis to help inform decisions on predator-prey (specifically zebras) dynamics.

Our trip begins at 6:00 AM with *Mzee Lekerio* and *Le Nanyuki*, who are among the most experienced lion trackers on Lewa directing the proceedings based on very faint beeps emitted by a receiver that is tuned to the frequency of the target lion's collar. We have to make a number of stops on our way to orientate the receiver accordingly for the strongest beep and check for lion prints at junctions to get a feeling of the routes followed by the lions. The beeps became stronger as we got closer to the lion, a sure indicator that our quarry was just about to materialize. We got to some exceptionally thick whistling trees bush and had to drive off road for a look as this was the fourth day exactly since this particular pride was last sighted and accounted for (off road driving in Lewa is not encouraged in order to avoid creating a maze of unsustainable illegal roads that obviously damages the environment). *Mzee Lekerio* was equally convinced that the lion were not more than 150 yards from where we were. "Be careful, lest you find yourself in a ditch" *Le Nanyuki* whispered to me with his characteristic humour. By this time, the beep was very sharp and strong. And true to *Lekerio's* words, as we drove round one of the bushes, a female cub raised her head from the tall grasses and peered at us enquiringly. One after the other, a total of seven, 1.5 year old cubs together with 2 lioness lazily acknowledged our presence and slowly dozed unperturbed by the frenzy of clicks from the cameras. All this time, we were utterly silent not to disturb the lion who were so far very accommodating. We took the necessary data and drove back via vultures that were stripping clean the remains of a Plains zebra kill – obviously executed in the previous night by our harmless looking pride of lion. We collected one fresh lion scat sample and off we left back for the camp.

*So, why do we have to track lion?* – The answer lies in the fact that Lewa is home to 20% of the world's remaining wild population of Grevy's zebra. Our population declined from about 630 in 1999 to the current 430 individuals is mainly due to competition with the plains zebras and predation.

We are investigating the possible impact of predation on this population especially because of the fact that the number of lion on the Conservancy has increased since 2000 to the current 15 residents. By tracking the lions daily we are able to overlay their movement patterns with the distribution of Grevy's zebra. Through laboratory analysis, the collected scat shows the prey preferences that constitute the diet of the lions.

*By Mary Mwololo – Research department*

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# Lewa Overseas

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## Lewa USA

Donors from the US support every facet of the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy's mission and it is a pleasure to report on their generosity. For the Conservancy itself there will soon be a new airplane to monitor wildlife (especially rhino) and provide a vital service to anti-poaching patrols and the community at large. Security staff will receive funding to ensure the health of both black and white rhino and new rifles to protect them. Other equipment, including a tractor and motorbike, will enable better maintenance of roads and fencing. A new bus will bring students from surrounding schools to learn about the value of conservation and see rhino first hand. Wildlife research also has received much needed support.

Lewa's tremendous community outreach draws donations from the US for new school buildings, playground equipment, lunch programs, uniforms, books, teacher training, student bursaries and adult literacy. The Conservancy's micro finance program has proven a great success and donors now support over 350 women who, in qualified groups, are managing their own small businesses with great results. Water projects, also funded in part by US donors, enable villagers to water their livestock without contaminating their own fresh water supply. Community and Conservancy health care is supported by new clinic and hospital construction, medical equipment and, most recently, the purchase of a new generator to ensure critical back up power when needed.

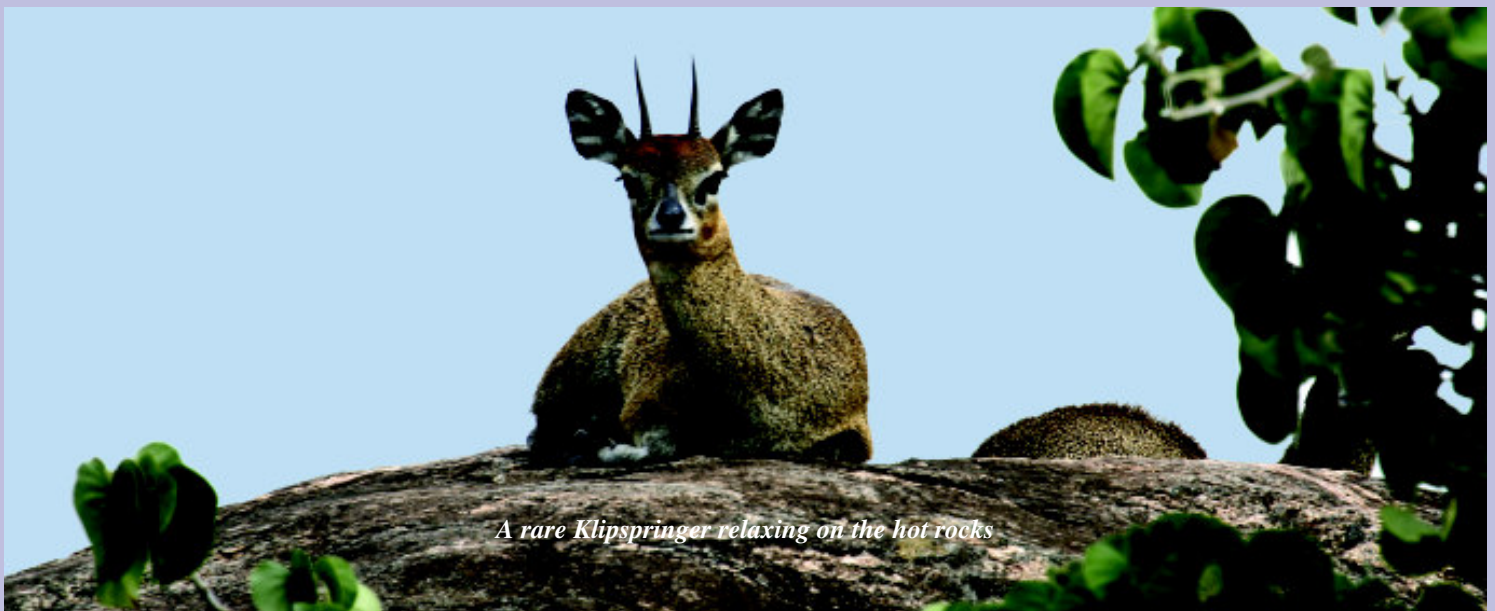
Lewa has been a catalyst for the growth of conservation initiatives far beyond its own boundaries. Once again, US donors can take pride in the conservation gains being made for they have made much of it possible.

Not to be overlooked is the need to support Lewa's core – its day to day operations. Attracting and keeping managers and support staff, maintaining roads, buildings and fences, building a strong tourist base to offset Conservancy expenses all this activity takes money. US donors have been extraordinarily generous in their support of Lewa's operations for they understand that without a strong core, the entire Lewa mission will be jeopardized.

To name those foundations, corporations, zoos, societies and individuals responsible for this extraordinary support will have to wait until the 2007 Annual Report. In the meantime, thanks to those who see the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy as a shining example of wildlife conservation and community development at its very best and support the cause with their personal dedication and donations.

*Linda Dyer Millard*

*To those in the US who would like to make a donation to Lewa, please consider which of Lewa's many opportunities resonate with your philanthropic interests and jump in. Call Linda at 650 851-7738 or email [Linda.millard@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.millard@gmail.com).*



*A rare Klipspringer relaxing on the hot rocks*



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# Lewa Community

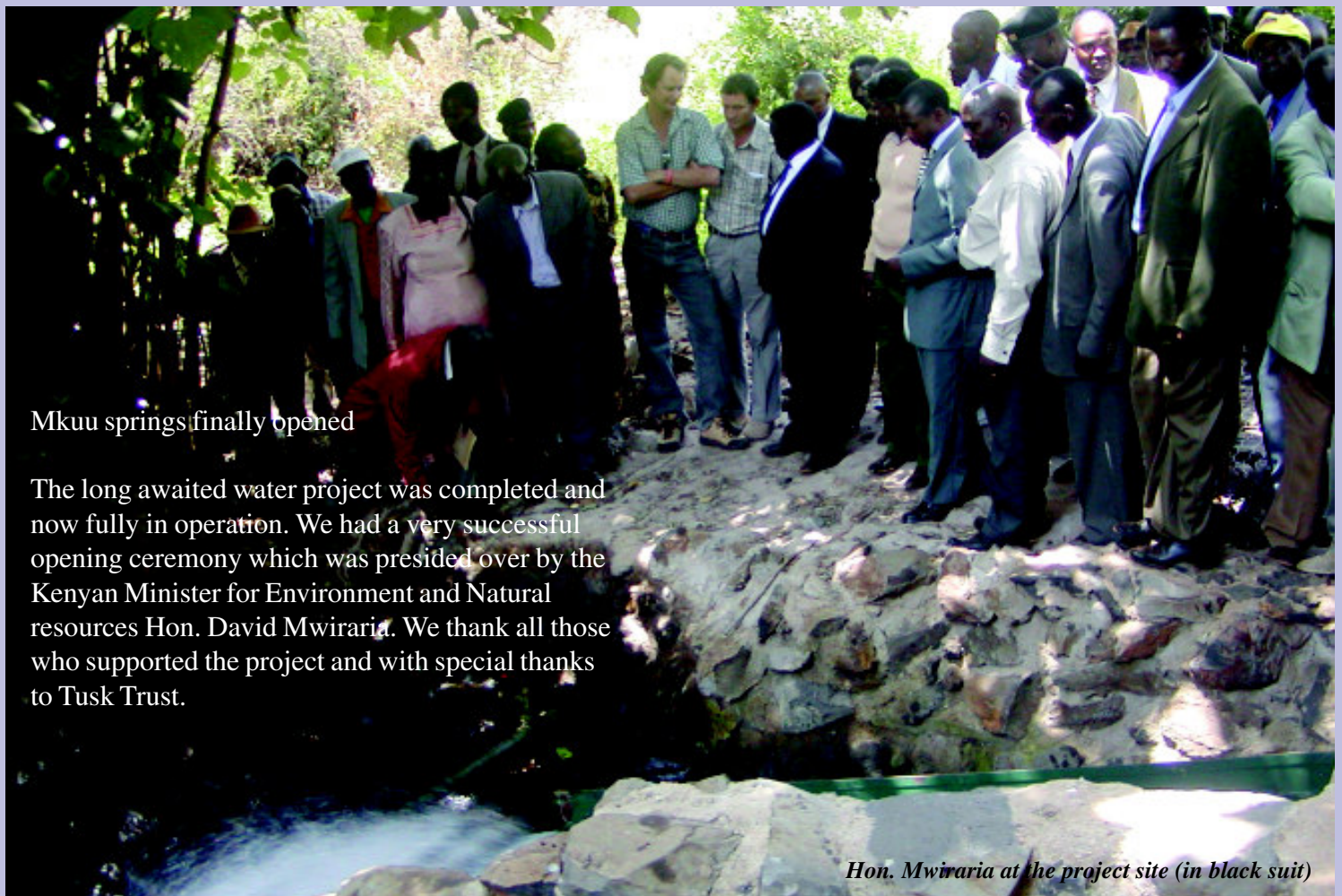
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## The Women's Micro Credit Programme Grows

Since the start of Lewa's Women's Micro-Credit Programme in 2001 (credit first extended in 2003), our rural women have been granted loans to run businesses ranging from flour milling to crochet. The focus is on women because culturally the women have been left vulnerable yet play a key role in shaping the future of the society; especially in our region which has a very fragile ecosystem.

The programme is an integral part of Lewa's Community Development activities and, as a result, focuses on poverty alleviation through women participation in development endeavours. Initially the programme extended loans to a small number of women as a pilot project which quickly showed admirable results and had a significant impact on livelihoods. The aim is that through education, capacity building and exposure increasing numbers of women within the community will be equipped with the skills necessary to start businesses and that the programme has been making capital available to these women by extending loans.

The programme's growth aspirations have directly been linked to the communities bordering the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. From the original three groups comprising of about 100 women the programme now has expanded and now successfully supports eight groups totalling about 400 members. This has been due to the expansion we have had over the year ensuring that at least the impact of women in development is felt within the communities neighbouring Lewa. It is amazing how the attitude of the communities is changing and now they fully understand and participate in wildlife conservation as part of their lives and is one way of improving their livelihoods.



### Mkuu springs finally opened

The long awaited water project was completed and now fully in operation. We had a very successful opening ceremony which was presided over by the Kenyan Minister for Environment and Natural resources Hon. David Mwiraria. We thank all those who supported the project and with special thanks to Tusk Trust.



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# Lewa Logistics

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Time has flown by and once again it is time to reflect on the past few months here at Lewa. It seems just the other day that we started the New Year with floods, destroyed road networks and damaging infrastructure. Thankfully we are back on our feet and after a couple of months of hard work almost every road and bridge on the Conservancy is back to normal. Some serious drainage has been put in place just in case it should happen again!

The Marathon has come and gone and I think I can safely say it was a great success, even though we were shaking in our boots beforehand knowing that it was the biggest ever in terms of runners and visitors. On the logistics side the success was due to the amazing support we got from the numerous volunteers who offered their services and we are very grateful to them all.



*The new security block at Sera Conservancy*

Although we started preparing for the marathon in March and it is held at the end of June our project work did not slow down, in fact it was full steam ahead on this front. We started on our new batch of projects in February and by the middle of March had four major projects on the go. These were scattered across the countryside; from a twelve room security block at Sera in the north to a seven room security gate house at Ngare Ndare on our western boundary. The other two were a class room at Subuiga School on our south eastern boundary and a senior staff house within the Conservancy. Apart from juggling equipment from one to the other we managed to complete all four projects without any serious mishaps.

Our workshop is just becoming busier and busier. At present we take care of no less than sixty six vehicles and heavy movable machinery and fifteen generators as well as many other mechanical items.

Our fabrication department has been flat out since the New Year having converted four land cruisers into tourist configurations in the past two months alone. Other items produced include mobile cattle bomas, school windows and capture equipment. We are dealing with more and more outside work in the workshop which helps us generate income. Our carpentry workshop continues to produce high quality items for all our projects, tourist facilities and outside parties. In June we rejuvenated the Lewa Shop and gave it a new lease of life and it is well worth a visit!

The future looks bright and busy as far as logistics is concerned with a large number of interesting projects on going or about to start soon. One such project is the TM gate community water project. The TM community is on our eastern boundary and has had water problems ever since anyone can remember due to a lack of surface rivers. Thanks to support from Tusk Trust (yet again) we are in the middle of distributing water to this community from a new borehole within our boundary. The water is pumped to a large water tank eight hundred metres from the source and is then fed by gravity to the surrounding community up to three and a half kilometers away. Although we are still a few weeks from completion one would not believe the joy on the community members' faces when they saw water pouring out of the borehole. It is a sight like this that makes it all so worthwhile!

I must end on rather a sad note as the logistics department and indeed the rest of Lewa has lost two staunch supporters since the last newsletter. Although they were both hardware suppliers they were more friends than business associates. Silu Pithia was a long time Isiolo resident and supplied us with sand, ballast, bricks and whatever else we needed and he could get his hands on. I would often call Silu up for advice on many different topics and he would always be willing to help. Sadly he was killed on the Isiolo to Archer's Post road in February much to the shock and dismay of us all.

Bernard Kinyua, alias "KK" was our main supplier of timber and again never one to be phased by any task or question. Sadly he passed away last week after a short illness.

Both men were such great personalities and will be greatly missed.



*Adrian admiring the TM borehole - working!*



# KWS Vet

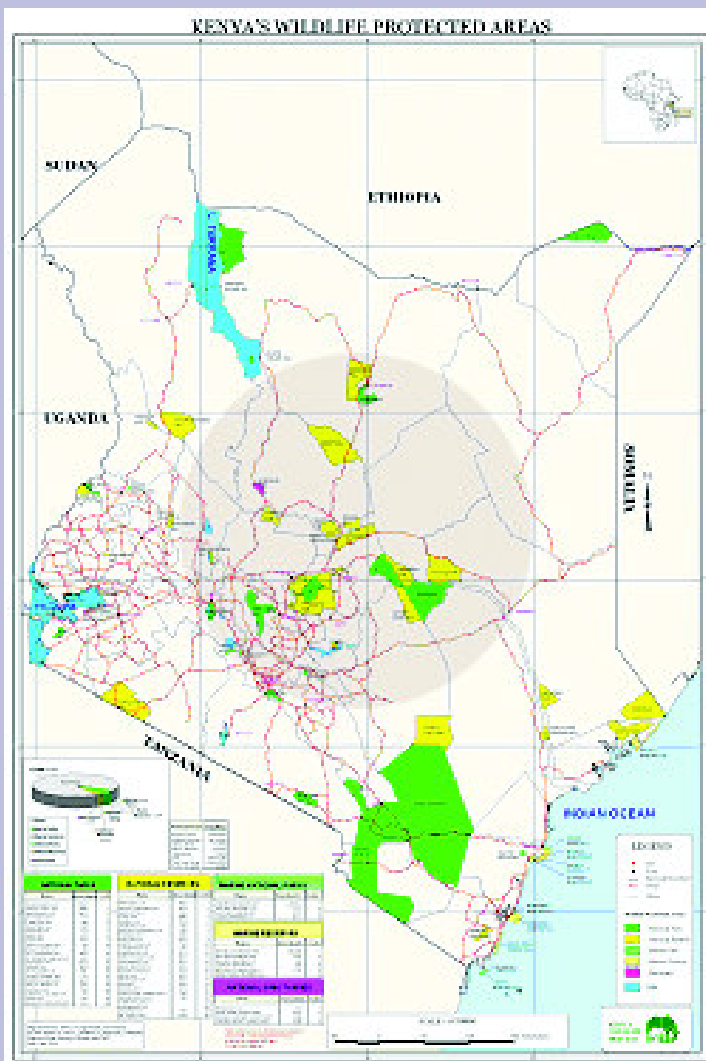
## The Mountain Region Mobile Veterinary Clinic

Over the years, all wildlife in the Mountain and Northern Conservation Areas used to get veterinary care from Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) veterinarians based in Nairobi. This resulted in delayed response in attending to the cases and hence causing more suffering to the animals.

Since the beginning of this year KWS and Lewa, partnered and established a mobile veterinary clinic with an operation based at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. A veterinarian, Stephen Chege, was nominated from the KWS veterinary pool to head the project with assistance from a Lewa driver. This project is in line with the KWS policy of decentralisation and taking more services to the field.

The Mountain and Northern Conservation areas hold half of the Kenya's population of the black rhino and almost all of the existing Kenya's population of the Grevy's Zebra among other endangered species that for real require prompt veterinary care. The area is vast and due to the interaction between livestock, wildlife and humans a close observation of what is happening is paramount to being able to note any disease which may have a disastrous effects to the wildlife, livestock and humans. This calls for regular and continuous surveillance and monitoring of diseases which a resident veterinarian is better placed to understand.

The Mountain Region Mobile vet clinic operation area (*Circled below*)



*Transmitter fitted into the rhinos horn*

The project started operating in January 2007, and has accomplished various activities in the region. These include among others, East Africa's most extensive black rhino translocation which was carried out from Solio and Ol Jogi ranches. Subsequently, 32 black rhinos were captured mainly by darting on foot. These rhinos then were successfully translocated to Ol Pejeta Wildlife Conservancy. Other activities included: fitting elephants and Grevy's zebra with GSM/GPS collars for behavioural research, investigation into causes of mass die offs of doves, and treatment of septic wounds due to gun shot or spearing.

The most common call outs and activities involve alleviating pain from suffering animals which fall victim to human – wildlife conflict and end up sustaining spear or gun shot wounds.



Spear or guns shot wounds (a) are the most common causes of pain in animals. If not treated early in advance Micro-organisms invade the wounds. They proliferate causing septicaemia, the prognosis worsens and the animals succumb to the condition and die. It is therefore essential to treat such cases before septicaemia sets in.



(a)



(b)

This juvenile elephant (b) was a victim of a snare where the wire cut through and it lost the lower half of its limb. KWS, Lewa and other conservation partners conduct de-snaring and community education campaigns to help prevent and treat such cases

In a nutshell, the project has been a great success since it began operations in January, but the operational costs are high due to the long distances covered and numbers of cases treated. We therefore encourage well wishers to contribute towards this noble work.

We care for all.

*Stephen Chege – KWS Veterinarian [vet@lewa.org](mailto:vet@lewa.org)*

## Finance

The Finance department has undergone on site training on Key Performance Indicators and Service Level Agreements thanks to Safaricom (K) Ltd which availed its Financial Controller for this task. This has resulted in redesigning of job descriptions, formulating service level agreements, and above all, accurate and timely financial reports being sent to donors. We have also received in-house training from a US consultant in formatting Board reports to make them more user friendly and informative.

In 2006 Lewa changed its accounting system from Sage to Pastel Accounting system which has the capability to integrate personnel, stores, deal with multicurrency reporting and handle consolidation. This has improved tremendously our way of doing things by ensuring financial reports are available in a timelier manner. The second phase of this system enhancement will be undertaken this year with the acquisition of Business Intelligence System and a fixed asset module. These two modules will enable us to extract financial reports without too much Excel spreadsheet work.

The year 2008 budgeting process is underway and all departmental budgets have been received and consolidated. The budget harmonization process is in progress to ensure individual department budgets agree with the overall organisation goals. A significant increase in generated revenue is anticipated from Lewa Enterprises division. This is in line with the stated objective of improved long-term self-sustainability. However, Donor funding will continue to play a very significant



role in enabling Lewa to carry out its broad reaching activities. The community outreach programme continues to deliver invaluable benefit to the neighbouring communities which in turn continues to generate enviable support to our wildlife heritage. This all helps minimize significantly the human wildlife conflict which is on the rise elsewhere in the country as the scramble for diminishing resources offers no winners. This outreach has won the heart of many donors and would have been unimaginable without them. Lewa continues to be forever grateful for the tremendous goodwill and support received from local and international donors.

*Isaac Njagi - Finance Manager*



# Human Resources

## Health and Safety on Lewa

Lewa is committed to a continuous improvement in health, safety and the environment. It endeavours to provide a safe and healthy work environment for all employees. This is done through acting responsibly throughout the process of wildlife management, logistics and development.

One of the requirements from employers by the law is that they adhere to *Factories and Other Places of Work Act*. This Act requires an employer to register with the Directorate of Occupational Health and Safety, form a health and safety committee, conduct audits annually and training of the safety committee.

In July LWC conducted the health and safety audit and the report will be forwarded to the Directorate of Health and Safety. We are also pursuing the issue of registration of Lewa as an employer with Department of Industrial Training. The Health and Safety committee has been nominated and trained. Some of the areas covered in the training included chemical and machinery safety, manual handling of goods, fire safety and an overview of HIV& AIDS and First Aid in the work place.

Following the audit and training on health and safety, we have started putting into place measures which will minimize accidents and ensure that all staff and our surrounding communities are safe. We now have selected fire marshals; assembly points in case of fire outbreak have been communicated to staff; sign posters have been put on the electric fence in areas where people pass closely and supervisors are ensuring

that all staff who need to use personal protection equipments when performing their duties do so in the proper manner.

One of the requirements of the *Factories and Other Places of Work Act* is medical examinations of all new staff who are to be engaged in work who could pose a health hazard and also regular check ups of the existing staff in the same jobs. This being the case, we applied for registration of our doctor, Dr Abid Butt with the Directorate of Occupational Health and Safety so that he can be licensed to conduct most of the required examinations.

We are on the right track for complying with all the stipulations of the health and safety Act. The process will take time and financial investment but the management of Lewa is determined to ensure that all staff are aware of possible hazards, how to avoid accidents and ensure that the environment is a safe place in which to work.



*Staff wearing safety goggles*



*Fire Extinguishers in the workshop*



# Lewa Enterprises

Working in a wildlife conservancy makes you think about issues on many levels. Not only protecting endangered species and their environment but also making a commitment to the community which co-exists with them.

Lewa Enterprises is playing its part. We are enhancing one of the best game viewing areas in East Africa and continually improving the quality of accommodation. We are “greening” the tourism properties to one day match the leadership that the wildlife side demonstrates everyday.

Our goal is to reduce our use of harmful fuels and plastics. The generator will never totally disappear. Sometimes the sun leaves us for days on end as it has this past July and August. By the end of the year we will have in place 12 hour solar path lights at the camps. Our choice of product is to solve the concern of “keeping the light on” from sunset to sunrise to guide and protect our guests. This will eliminate our use of kerosene and the fire hazards that go along with this use on the walking paths. We already use solar water and wind at some of our properties. Our busiest property, Lewa Safari Camp will soon “go solar” for its main building and kitchen area. New refrigeration is in place to run off the solar energy. The technology has much improved and the return on our investment compliments the overall Lewa mission.

Our other issue is plastic. We have just completed drilling a new bore hole by the Lewa Safari Camp and having this new water supply will enable us to filter and boil a large percentage for our use. We will be installing hot and cold water coolers in the main house of the camp. This will allow us to use the 20 litre bottles combined with fresh water from our new source. Our clients will be served from a locally made vessel for their drinking water hence eliminating all the small plastic bottles. This will provide a market for locally made vessels as well as decreasing our trash volume. Recycling of glass and aluminum will continue and our guests will be issued with a complimentary, locally made and beaded vessel for their drinking water.

*Our merchandise shops have been remodelled and are now open for all of our guests. Seasoned retailers Fi MacDonald and Clare Moller are the new owners and have personally supervised all the upgrades.*



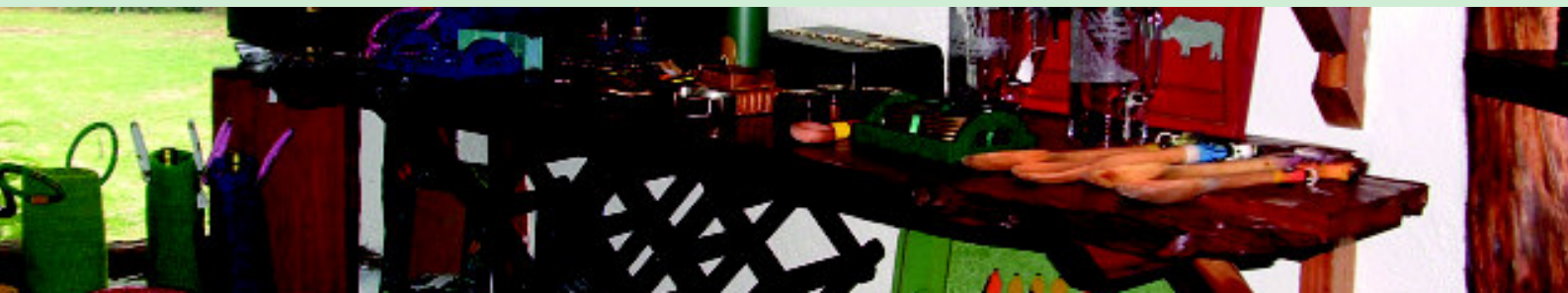
*Shop assistants Roseline and Nancy modelling the products.*

All of these measures will put us well down the path to tourism being ecologically responsible at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy.

We would also like to invite you to our Wine and Food Festival weekend at our lodges 12/13 January 2008. The Chefs from our team accompanied by an award winning United States Chef will create for you one evening of international cuisine along with an evening of African cuisine. South African wines and Italian wines will also be featured.

These efforts from the enterprise team are aimed at increasing the financial contribution to LWC in order to champion the sustainable management of flora and fauna on LWC.

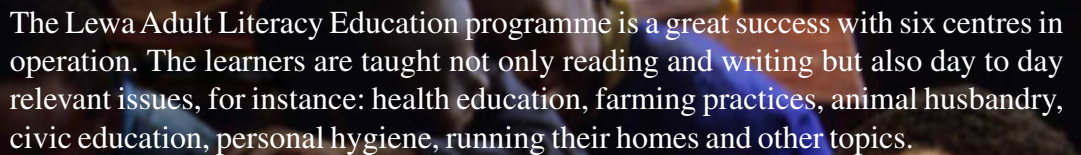
*Richard Buthe - LE Manager*





Over the past few years the Lewa Education Trust (LET) has seen the growth of the programme and the impact it is making in the community. The programme still supports 8 schools on the Conservancy boundary and in addition, LET manages funds and facilitates development in Sanga, Enaikishomi and Ntalabany Schools which fall under the Il Ngwesi Group Ranch. LET also oversees the learning and development of Uaso Umoja Nursery school which is near Kalama Conservancy. The performance of the schools is impressive and the Ministry of Education through the District Education officers has been very supportive in the implementation of the curriculum.

Schools have recently adopted the Pan African Conservation Education Project (PACE) through Tusk Trust, through which they are taught simple solutions to environmental problems within the community. Environmental issues are identified and their solutions are simplified in the educational materials given by PACE; books, films, and action sheets. The visits to Lewa Wildlife Conservancy by schools have been very successful with the calendar full to the end of the year.



*Faith Riunga - Lewa Education Trust*





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# Safaricom Marathon

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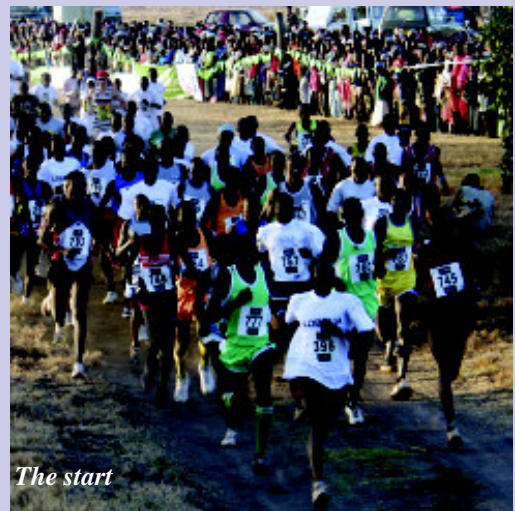
Supported by Safaricom, this year's fundraising event hosted over 900 runners from 20+ different countries. This is the largest field yet for this event. Bearing in mind the numbers, the altitude and the expected heat, the organisers doubled the medical coverage and laid on a second helicopter, but the day proved overcast and relatively cool, resulting in a new course record and an absence of medical problems.

The men's marathon witnessed a tremendous battle between last year's winner, Albert Matebor, Cyprian Mwobi and Jaffred Chirchir. All three were inside last year's record, but Mwobi finished almost a minute clear of the field in 2hrs 19.39, a truly world-class performance on this hilly, dusty course, run at 5,500 feet above sea level. In the women's race Irene Mogaka retained her title in 2hrs 28.52, with Nelly Jeptoo second in 2hrs 50.11. A hundred and sixty-six finished the full course, out of an original entry of 220.

A record number of 721 people, from 21 countries, finished the half-marathon. They included six of the world's greatest runners - two former holders of the womens' world marathon record, Catherine Ndereba and Tecla Loroupe, the current holders of the Boston, London and Rotterdam titles, Robert Cheruiyot, Martin Lel and Joshua Chelanga, as well as the world marathon record-holder Paul Tergat, a regular supporter of this event. Catherine Ndereba retained her title with ease in 1hr 20.30, while the four celebrity men were content to jog round in just under 80 minutes, a long way behind the winner Josphat Wachira, who won a three-way sprint-out in 67.03, narrowly missing the record. Richard Williams of Bristol University ran a very creditable 75 minutes on only a few days acclimatisation, and the outstanding age group performance came from the second non-Kenyan Allan Ferguson, a Nairobi-based Scot, just turned 60, whose time of 1hr 32.54 knocked nearly seven minutes off Bruce Tulloh's record.



*Jill Parker, 213, the last runner of the marathon arrives with an escort of safety bikers.*



*The start*

However, this is primarily an event for fund-raising and for fun, enjoying the spectacular views and the sensation of running in a game park, with the animals. One British runner managed to get a shot on his mobile phone of a black rhino crossing in front of him. However, the only serious problem was before the 6km children's race, when a herd of about 50 elephants invaded the course and delayed the start until they were shooed off by a helicopter.

The fundraising went well again with many Kenyan businesses in addition to Safaricom providing sponsorship and support (Highland Water, DHL, Pesa Point, Standard Chartered, KCB, General Motors, Ericsson, Linksoft Communications, Shell, Uchumi, IWAY Africa, Motorola, British Airways, Dial Up Communications, Cementers, Siemens, Phones U Like, Lucozade, Kikoy and BATUK) supporting the event, some for the first time, with direct sponsorship of water, water stations, medical support, aircraft fuel and other useful contributions.

Team sponsorship was again good and at the time of going to press we are pretty confident of beating last year's figure with a profit of about \$230,000 (Last year's figure was inflated by one single large donation of \$60,000 which unfortunately was not repeated!). Wildlife projects, local community conservation, education, healthcare and wider Tusk Kenyan projects will again benefit.

*Sarah Watson - Tusk Trust*





# Northern Rangelands Trust

## JAMES MUNYUGI

We all know life has an end, but when a small community such as ours loses a key individual of such charisma, strength and personal vision it remains hard to perceive that all this energy and laughter can just be lost. This is the case with James Munyugi, a close friend and working colleague of the past fifteen years. James died on August 22<sup>nd</sup> after a short illness that came upon him completely unexpected and left his family and all those with whom he worked at a complete sense of loss.

His charisma and skills at seeing through and beyond problems, bringing seemingly unsolvable issues to closure and simply an overall vision of what wildlife could contribute to Kenya's development set him on a level second to none. He was fun to be with, knew the country, the people and the issues to such a depth that he was able to motivate all with whom he associated behind a common cause of conservation. Since James's death I have had phone calls from every corner of globe, from politicians to pastoralists from bankers to zoo keepers lamenting his departure. His talks, his motivation and his very value of life impacted thousands of peoples' lives; this was clearly reflected at his funeral where over a thousand people attended.



James' achievements across the entire continent are far too many to number; I believe his greatest legacy will be the foundation that he has laid amongst the community conservancies adjoining Samburu National Reserve. There is now a cohesive conservation approach on four community conservancies adjoining the park, one new community lodge operating considered by many to be the best product within Samburu all thanks to James. I believe in thirty years from now James' role in establishing this foundation will still be the underlying basis of all their success.

Kenya and conservation in Eastern Africa have lost their most dynamic ambassador.

James we miss you, your dream will continue, Mzee Safari Njema.

*Ian Craig - NRT Director*



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**For more information about Lewa, please visit our website: [www.Lewa.org](http://www.Lewa.org)**

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## Lewa Personalities



**Faith Riungu**

Faith has run our Education Trust for the past three years. She comes from a family of teachers and has vast experience in this area. She manages support to our eight schools, 160 bursaries and adult literacy programme. She is engaged to be married



**John Kinoti**

John is Lewa Community manager; a post he has held for three years. John runs all our community programme consisting of the relations with all our neighbours, the micro-credit programme; water projects and other issues. John is recently married.